

**Montana Department of Military Affairs  
Disaster & Emergency Services Division  
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for September 8, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

***Wildfires of 2003***

**Attention \*** - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

**I. Background Information:**

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

**II. Current Montana Fire Situation: September 8, 2003**

**A. Large Fires**

*Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5*

*National Preparedness Level = 5*

- *Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:*
  - *Blackfoot Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Mortier) – 27,482 acres, 14% contained, 19 miles E of Kalispell.*
  - *Middle Fork Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 10,800 acres, 5% contained, 5 miles E of West Glacier.*
  - *Wedge Canyon – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Saleen) – 51,200 acres, 87% contained, 42 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Rampage Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 22,406 acres, 0% contained, 15 miles SE of West Glacier.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Wildland Fire Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath) – 43,000 acres, 0% contained, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Little Salmon Creek Fire Use Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). This 33,400 Wildland Fire Use complex is located 47 miles SE of Kalispell in the Bob Marshall Wilderness.*
  - *Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Cable) – 57,056 acres, 60% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls.*
  - *Trapper Creek Complex – 19,150 acres, 45% contained, 45 miles NE of Kalispell.*
  - *Crazy Horse – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) – 11,300 acres, 80% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius.*
- *Missoula Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:*
  - *Fish Creek Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Lohrey) – 36,855 acres, 60% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula.*
  - *Cooney Ridge – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter) – 25,100 acres, 70% contained, 11 miles E of Florence.*
  - *Mineral/Primm – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Broyles) – 25,202 acres, 65%*

- contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.
    - Gold 1 – 8,296 acres, 85% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis, Montana.
  - Lincoln Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 39,604 acres, 77% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln.
  - Cathedral Peak – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) – 2,830 acres, 70% contained, 10 miles S of Nye.
  - Winslow – 13,438 acres, 75% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview.
  - Clear/Nez Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Cones). This 11,411 acre Wildland Fire Use complex is located 41 miles SW of Lolo in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
  - East Complex – 23,500 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park.
  - Brundage - Fire Use Management Team (Cook) - 1,790 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles NE of Gardner.
  - Rathbone – Type 2 Incident Management Team (VanBruggen) – 3,010 acres, 100% contained, 17 miles N of West Yellowstone.

**B. Initial Attack**      *Light initial attack - 23 new fires 10,789 acres*

**C. State Forecast For Montana**  
***RED FLAG WARNINGS ARE IN EFFECT FOR THE FOLLOWING ZONES:  
 ZONES 119 THROUGH 122 and ZONES 130 THROUGH 133  
 FOR STRONG GUSTY WINDS AND THUNDERSTORMS***

***STATE FORECAST FOR MONTANA  
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GREAT FALLS MT  
 500 AM MDT MON SEP 8 2003***

***WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE  
 Today...Cooler. Numerous Rain Showers And Isolated Morning Thunderstorms. Highs 57 To 67.  
 Tonight... Evening Rain Showers Likely. Becoming Partly Cloudy. Cooler. Lows 35 To 45.  
 Tuesday...Mostly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs 59 To 69.***

***CENTRAL MONTANA  
 Today...Mostly Cloudy. Cooler. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms With Smoke In The Morning Then Widespread Rain Showers In The Afternoon. Highs In The 60s To Lower 70s West...70s To Mid 80s East.  
 Tonight...Cooler. Mostly Cloudy. Rain Showers Likely In The Evening Then Chance Of Rain Showers After Midnight. Lows In The Mid 30s To Mid 40s.  
 Tuesday...Partly Cloudy. Cooler. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs In The Upper 50s To Mid 60s.***

***SOUTHWEST MONTANA  
 Today...Mostly Cloudy. Cooler. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms In The Morning Then Numerous Rain Showers In The Afternoon. Highs In The Lower 60s To Lower 70s.  
 Tonight...Partly Cloudy. Chance Of Rain Showers In The Evening. Lows In The 30s.  
 Tuesday...Partly Cloudy. Cooler. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers In The Morning Then Chance Of Rain Showers In The Afternoon. Highs In The Lower 50s To Lower 60s.***

***EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA  
 ...Lake Wind Advisory For Fort Peck Lake Tonight...***

*Today...Mostly Cloudy West...Partly Cloudy East. Windy With Showers And Thunderstorms Likely. Some Thunderstorms May Be Severe South. Highs From The 70s West To 90s East. Tonight...Mostly Cloudy And Windy. Cooler. Showers And Thunderstorms Likely Until Midnight. Lows In The 40s To Lower 50s. Tuesday...Mostly Cloudy And Cooler With A Chance Of Showers. Windy Southeast. Highs In The 60s West And 70s East.*

### **III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:**

*The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:*

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Stillwater County	Emergency Declaration	8/16/03
Sanders County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Lewis and Clark County	Emergency Declaration	8/15/03
Judith Basin County	Emergency Declaration	8/19/03
Missoula County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Carbon County	Emergency Declaration	8/10/03
Dawson County	Emergency Declaration	8/27/03

The US Small Business Administration has issued a Declaration of Economic Injury Disaster #9W74 for the following counties:

Flathead	Sanders	Chouteau	Missoula
Glacier	Teton	Jefferson	Pondera
Lake	Broadwater	Meagher	Powell
Lewis& Clark	Cascade	Mineral	Toole
Lincoln			

### **IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:**

<b>Current Montana National Guard Resources</b>
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Montana Army Guard	EQUIPMENT	Montana Air Guard
NG SOLDIERS <i>63 Soldiers Assigned</i>	23 Transport and Cargo Vehicles	Air Guardsmen 26 Airmen Assigned

### **Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)**

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0800-1700 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:  
Northwest Area Command  
Missoula Area Command

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

## **V. FEMA Grants:**

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grants have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties
- Lincoln Complex
- Flathead County Zone

***The Northern Rockies Coordination Center information line has scaled back service hours to 0830 to 1700.***

## **VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:**

***For the latest fire restrictions:***

***<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>***

***For the latest on smoke management and air quality Updates:***

***<http://www.deq.state.mt.us/FireUpdates/index.asp>***

***For the latest closures and evacuations:***

***[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations\\_road\\_closures](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures)***

***For detailed information on specific fires or priorities:***

***[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed\\_sit.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/detailed_sit.htm)***

***[http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac\\_priorities.doc](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcc/mac2003/mac_priorities.doc)***